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Miwa et al.

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(54) **DELIVERY SYSTEM, DELIVERY METHOD, AND COMPUTER-READABLE NON-TRANSITORY RECORDING MEDIUM STORING A PROGRAM**

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G01C 21/3415 (2013.01)

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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See application file for complete search history.

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 371 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: **16/824,060**

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JP 2018-165205 A 10/2018

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G01C 21/34 (2006.01)
G05D 1/00 (2006.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A delivery system for delivering a package to a delivery destination using a moving body, including a weather information acquiring unit that acquires weather information including information concerning weather at the delivery destination; and a judging unit that judges whether delivery of the package to the delivery destination by the moving body is possible, based on the weather information acquired by the weather information acquiring unit.

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

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12 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

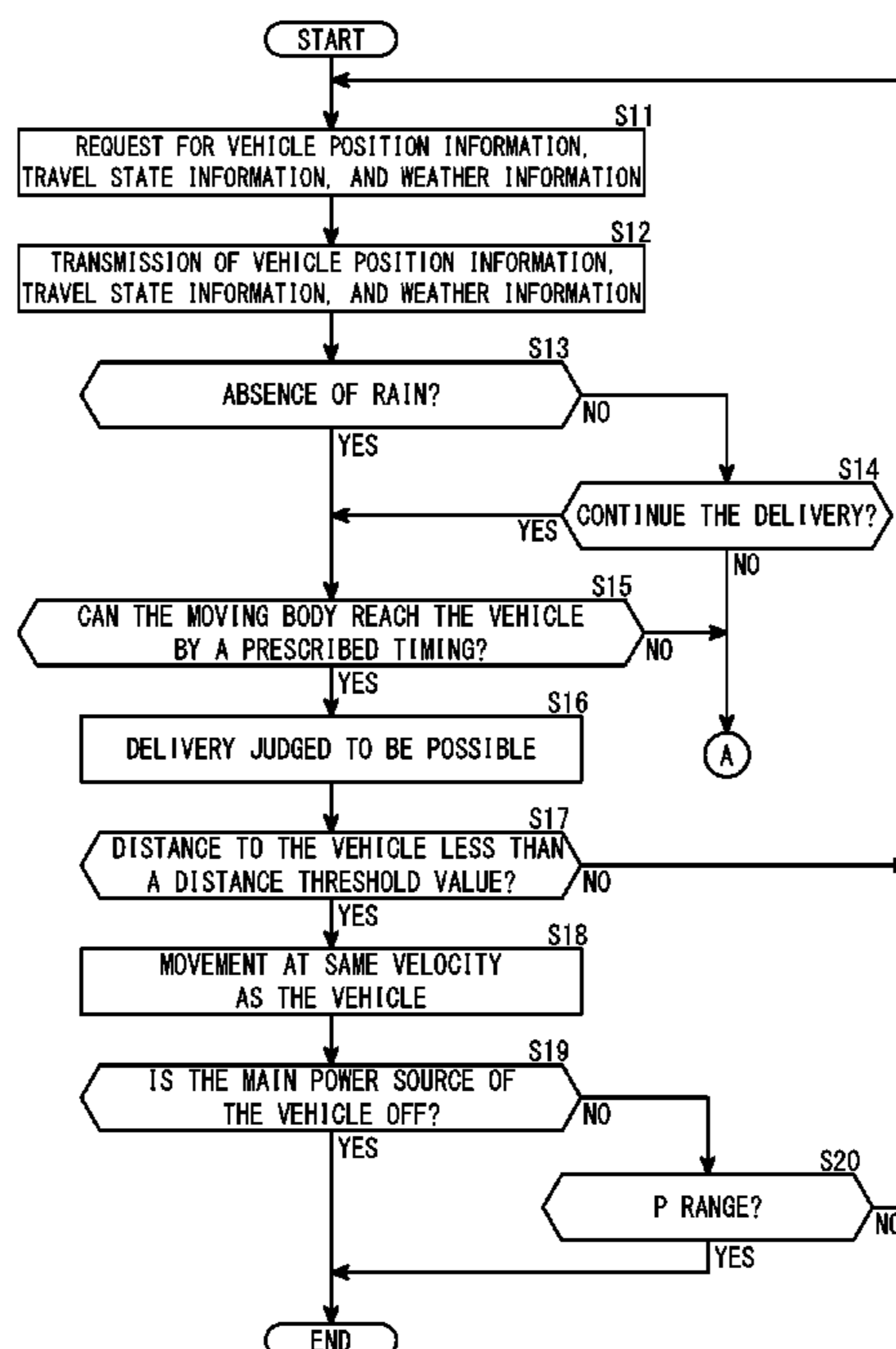


FIG. 1

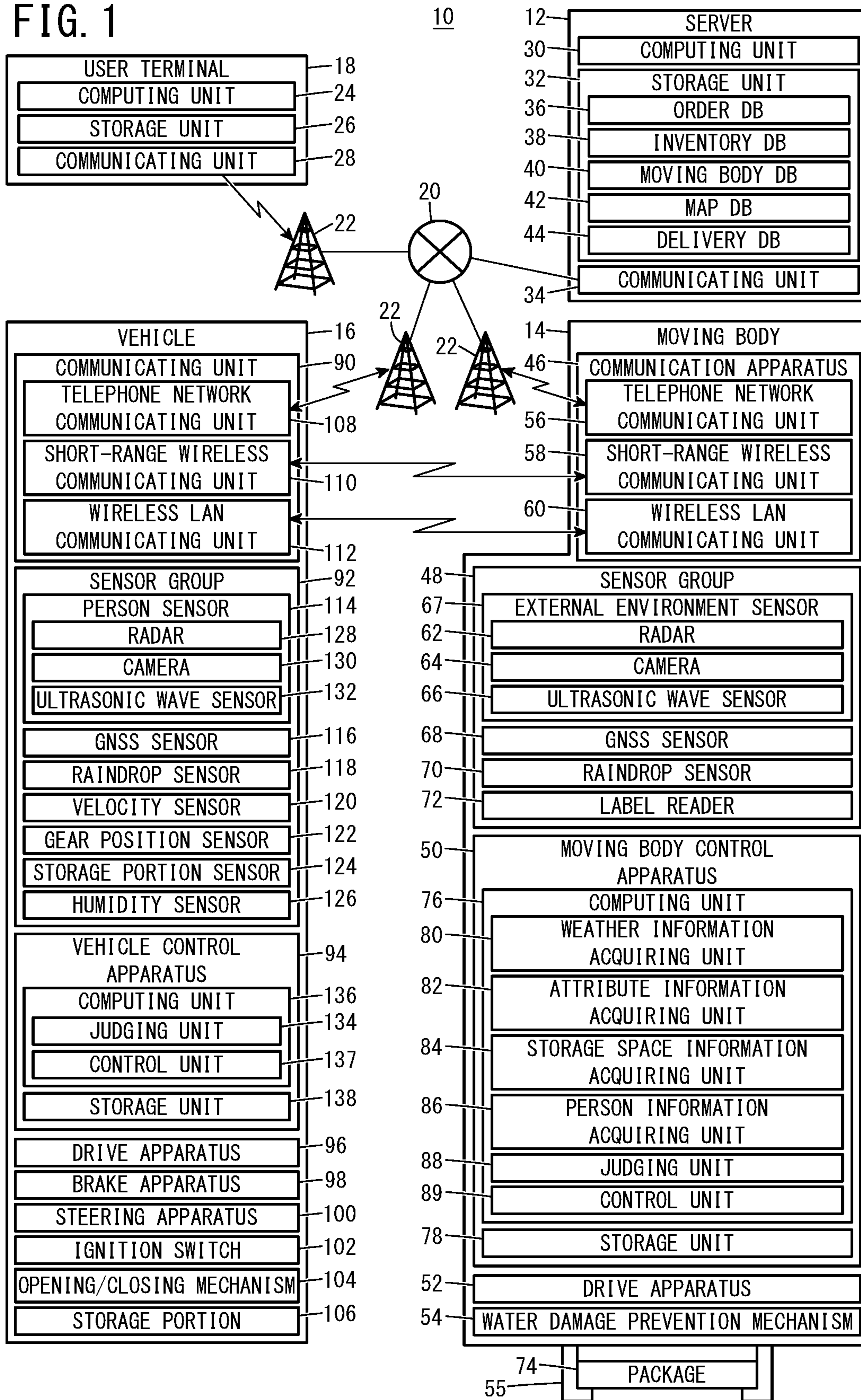


FIG. 2

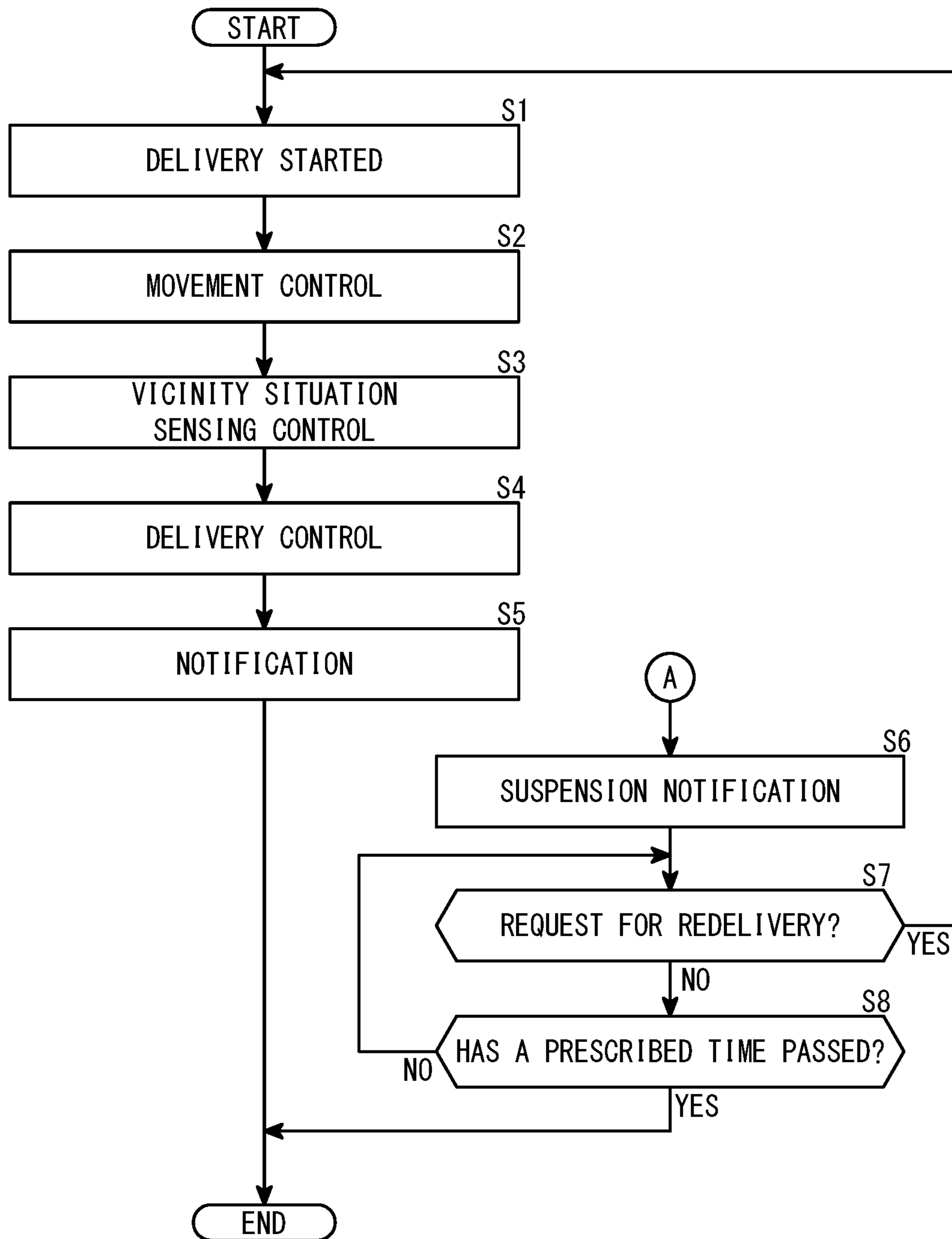


FIG. 3

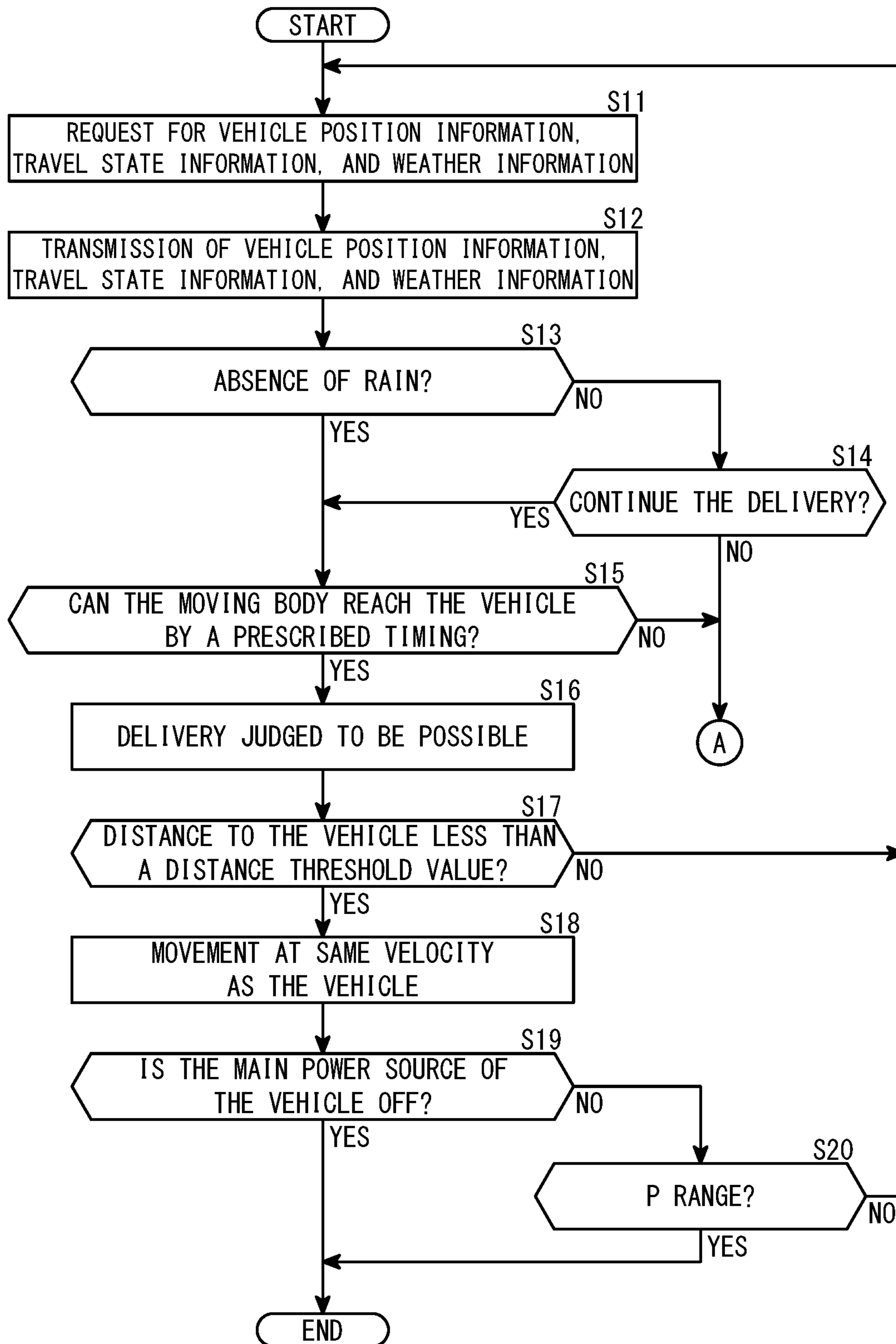


FIG. 4

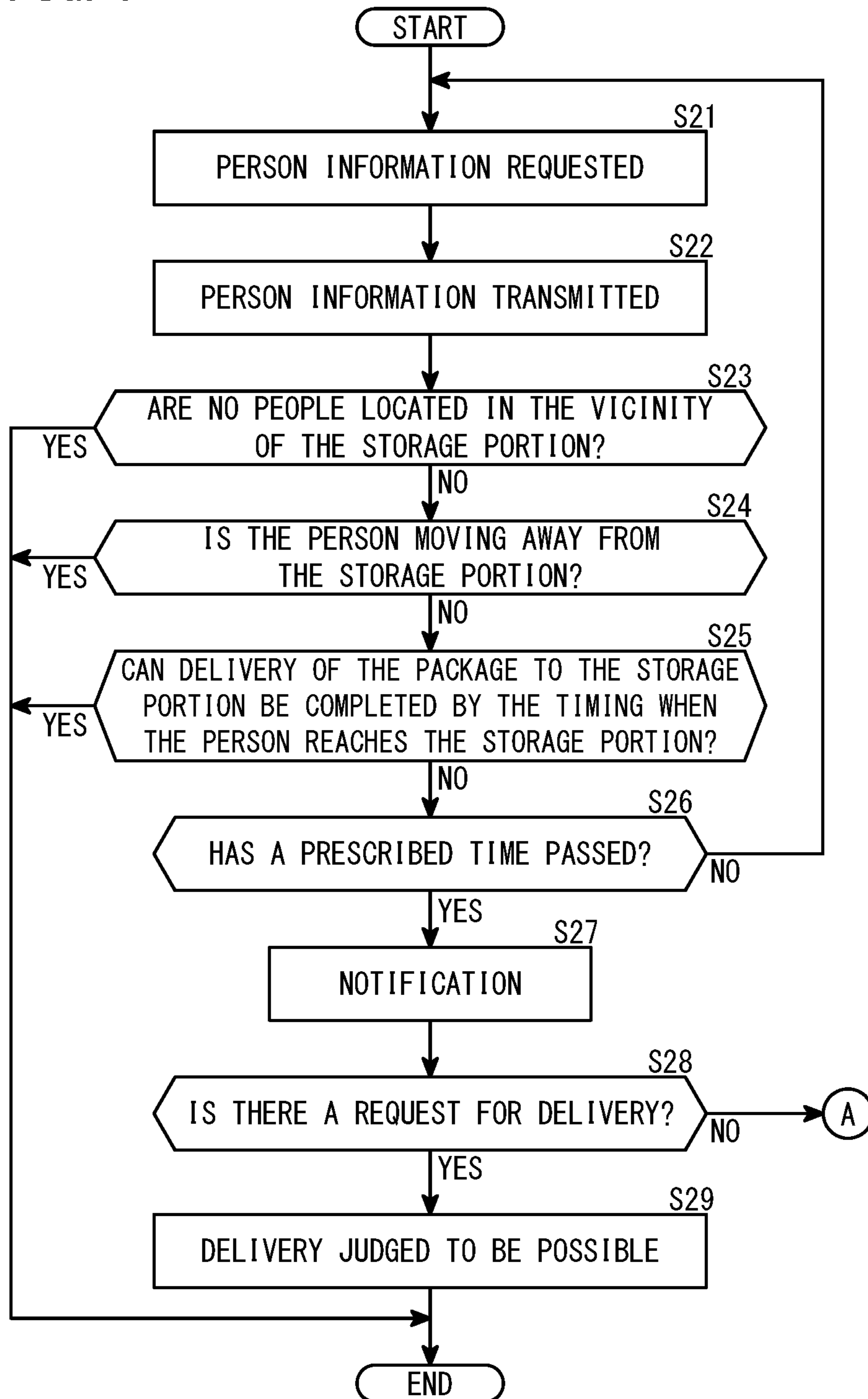
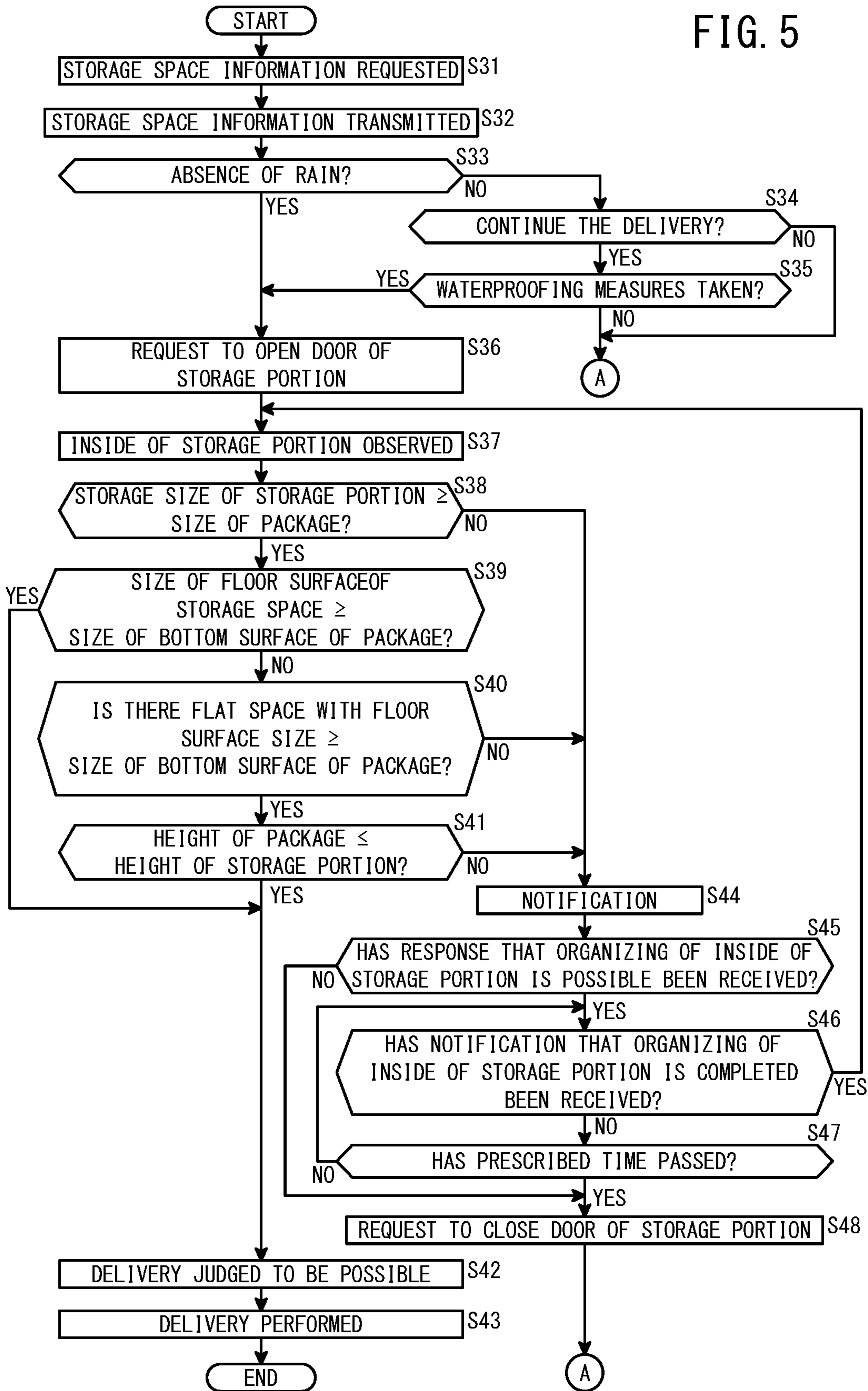


FIG. 5



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**DELIVERY SYSTEM, DELIVERY METHOD,
AND COMPUTER-READABLE
NON-TRANSITORY RECORDING MEDIUM
STORING A PROGRAM**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATION

This application is based upon and claims the benefit of priority from Japanese Patent Application No. 2019-052509 filed on Mar. 20, 2019, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a delivery system, a delivery method, and a computer-readable non-transitory recording medium storing a program.

Description of the Related Art

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2018-165205 discloses a delivery system for delivering a package from a delivery source to a vehicle of a recipient, using an unmanned flying body. According to the delivery system of Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2018-165205, the unmanned flying body is caused to fly toward the vehicle based on position information of the vehicle. The unmanned flying body lowers the package into the vehicle compartment when a door of the vehicle is opened.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

However, with the technology described in Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2018-165205, the delivery cannot always be performed favorably.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a delivery system, a delivery method, and a computer-readable non-transitory recording medium storing thereon a program that make it possible to favorably deliver a package to a delivery destination.

A delivery system according to one aspect of the present invention is a delivery system for delivering a package to a delivery destination using a moving body, comprising a weather information acquiring unit that acquires weather information including information concerning weather at the delivery destination; and a judging unit that judges whether delivery of the package to the delivery destination by the moving body is possible, based on the weather information acquired by the weather information acquiring unit.

A delivery method according to another aspect of the present invention comprises a step of acquiring weather information including information concerning weather at a delivery destination; and a step of judging whether delivery of a package to the delivery destination by a moving body is possible, based on the weather information.

According to yet another aspect of the present invention, a computer-readable non-transitory recording medium stores thereon a program that causes a computer to perform a step of acquiring weather information including information concerning weather at a delivery destination; and a step of judging whether delivery of a package to the delivery destination by a moving body is possible, based on the weather information.

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According to the present invention, it is possible to provide a delivery system, a delivery method, and a computer-readable non-transitory recording medium storing thereon a program that make it possible to favorably deliver a package to a delivery destination.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which a preferred embodiment of the present invention is shown by way of illustrative example.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a delivery system according to an embodiment;

FIG. 2 is a flow chart showing an example of an operation of a delivery system according to an embodiment;

FIG. 3 is a flow chart showing an example of an operation of a delivery system according to an embodiment;

FIG. 4 is a flow chart showing an example of an operation of a delivery system according to an embodiment; and

FIG. 5 is a flow chart showing an example of an operation of a delivery system according to an embodiment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED
EMBODIMENTS

The following describes in detail preferred embodiments of a delivery system, a delivery method, and a computer-readable non-transitory recording medium storing thereon a program according to the present invention, while referencing the accompanying drawings.

One Embodiment

The following describes a delivery system, a delivery method, and a computer-readable non-transitory recording medium storing thereon a program according to one embodiment, using the drawings. FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing the delivery system according to the present embodiment.

The delivery system **10** according to the present embodiment can be formed by a server (service management server or service server) **12**, a moving body **14**, a vehicle **16**, and a user terminal **18**, but is not limited to this. Here, an example is described of a case in which the moving body **14** is an autonomous flying body (drone), but the present invention is not limited to this.

With the delivery system **10** according to the present embodiment, a user (customer) manipulates the user terminal (customer terminal) **18** to order a product (not shown in the drawings). The server **12** instructs the moving body **14** to deliver a package **74** including this product, based on the order information supplied from the user terminal **18**. The moving body **14** delivers the package **74** to the delivery destination, based on the instructions from the server **12**. Here, an example is described of a case in which the delivery destination is the vehicle **16**, but the present invention is not limited to this.

The user terminal **18** and the server **12** can communicate via a network (communication network) **20** or the like. The network **20** is an Internet communication network or the like, for example, but is not limited to this. FIG. 1 shows an example of a case in which the user terminal **18** is a mobile terminal. In the case where the user terminal **18** is a mobile terminal, the user terminal **18** and the server **12** can communicate via a wireless relay station **22** and the network **20**.

In a case where the user terminal **18** is a stationary terminal, the user terminal **18** and the server **12** can communicate via the network **20**.

The server **12** and the moving body **14** can communicate via the network **20** and the wireless relay station **22**. The server **12** and the vehicle **16** can communicate via the network **20** and the wireless relay station **22**.

The moving body **14** and the vehicle **16** can communicate via the wireless relay station **22** and the network **20**. Furthermore, the moving body **14** and the vehicle **16** can perform short-range wireless communication. Examples of this short-range communication include short-range communication based on a Bluetooth (Registered Trademark) standard or the like. Furthermore, the moving body **14** and the vehicle **16** can communicate using a wireless LAN (Local Area Network), for example. More specifically, the moving body **14** and the vehicle **16** can perform wireless communication based on a Wi-Fi (registered Trademark) standard or the like, for example.

The moving body **14** and the user terminal **18** can communicate via the wireless relay station **22** and the network **20**. Furthermore, the vehicle **16** and the user terminal **18** can communicate via the wireless relay station **22** and the network **20**.

As described above, the user can order a product by manipulating the user terminal **18**. The user terminal **18** is a mobile communication terminal, for example. Examples of a mobile communication terminal include a smartphone and the like, but the mobile communication terminal is not limited to this. As described above, the user terminal **18** is not limited to being a mobile communication terminal, and may instead be a stationary terminal. Examples of a stationary terminal include a personal computer and the like, but the stationary terminal is not limited to this. The user terminal **18** includes a computing unit **24**, a storage unit **26**, and a communicating unit **28**. The user terminal **18** can also include other configurational elements, but descriptions thereof are omitted.

The server **12** can perform order management, inventory management, delivery management, and the like. The server **12** can be managed by a business or the like, for example, but is not limited to this. For the order management, the server **12** receives orders for products from users, for example. For the inventory management, the server **12** performs inventory management of products. For the delivery management, the server **12** manages the delivery of packages **74** using the moving body **14**. The server **12** includes a computing unit **30**, a storage unit **32**, and a communicating unit **34**. The server **12** can also include other configurational elements, but descriptions thereof are omitted.

The computing unit **30** performs overall control of the server **12**. The computing unit **30** can be formed by a CPU (Central Processing Unit), an ASIC (Application Specific Integrated Circuit), or the like, for example, but is not limited to this.

The storage unit **32** includes a volatile memory (not shown in the drawings) and a non-volatile memory (not shown in the drawings). The volatile memory is a RAM (Random Access Memory) or the like, for example. The non-volatile memory is a ROM (Read Only Memory), a flash memory, or the like, for example. Programs, data and the like are stored in the storage unit **32**.

The storage unit **32** includes an order database (order DB) **36**, an inventory database (inventory DB **38**), a moving body database (moving body DB) **40**, a map database (map DB) **42**, and a delivery database (delivery DB) **44**. Information

concerning orders, i.e. order information, can be accumulated in the order database **36**. As described above, ordering of a product can be performed by having the user manipulate the user terminal **18**. Information concerning product inventory, i.e. inventory information, can be accumulated in the inventory database **38**. Individual information or the like concerning a moving body **14** to be used to deliver a package **74** can be accumulated in the moving body database **40**. This individual information can include identification information (identification ID) of the moving body **14**, the type (drone or the like) of the moving body **14**, the maximum loading weight of the moving body **14**, the maximum dimensions of a package **74** that can be loaded in the moving body **14**, and the like, for example. Furthermore, this individual information can include fuel consumption of the moving body **14**, maximum velocity of the moving body **14**, number of operational years of the moving body **14**, total distance travelled by the moving body **14**, number of packages **74** that can be loaded in the moving body **14**, the current position of the moving body **14**, and the like. Map information for performing the delivery with the moving body **14** and the like can be accumulated in the map database **42**. Information concerning the delivery of a package **74** including a product for which an order has been received, i.e. delivery information, can be accumulated in the delivery database **44**. The delivery information can also include information concerning the moving body **14** that is to deliver the package **74**.

The communicating unit **34** can communicate with the user terminal **18**, the moving body **14**, the vehicle **16**, and the like via the network **20** and the wireless relay station **22**.

The moving body **14** can be used to deliver the package **74** to the delivery destination, for example. The moving body **14** delivers the package **74** from the delivery source to the delivery destination, based on the delivery instructions (flight instructions) transmitted from the server **12** to the moving body **14**. The delivery source is a warehouse (not shown in the drawings), for example, but is not limited to this. The delivery destination is the vehicle **16**, for example, but is not limited to this.

The moving body **14** includes a communication apparatus (communicating unit) **46**, a sensor group **48**, a moving body control apparatus **50**, a drive apparatus (propeller driving section) **52**, a water damage prevention mechanism **54**, and a holding mechanism **55**. The moving body **14** can also include other configurational elements, but descriptions thereof are omitted.

The communication apparatus **46** includes a telephone network communicating unit **56**, a short-range wireless communicating unit **58**, and a wireless LAN communicating unit **60**. The telephone network communicating unit **56** includes a communication module (not shown in the drawings) that can be adapted to a mobile telephone network. The telephone network communicating unit **56** can communicate via the telephone network. The short-range wireless communicating unit **58** includes a short-range wireless communication module (not shown in the drawings). A communication module adapted to the Bluetooth (Registered Trademark) standard can be used as the short-range wireless communication module. The short-range wireless communicating unit **58** can perform short-range wireless communication with a short-range wireless communicating unit **110** included in the vehicle **16**. The wireless LAN communicating unit **60** includes a wireless LAN module (not shown in the drawings). A module adapted to the Wi-Fi (Registered Trademark) standard can be used as the wireless LAN module. The wireless LAN communicating unit **60** can

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perform wireless communication with a wireless LAN communicating unit **112** included in the vehicle **16**.

The sensor group **48** can include an external environment sensor **67**, a GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) sensor **68**, a raindrop sensor **70**, and a label reader **72**.

The external environment sensor **67** can include a radar **62**, a camera **64**, and an ultrasonic wave sensor **66**.

The radar **62** emits a transmission wave toward a target object and receives a reflected wave resulting from the target object reflecting back the emitted transmission wave. The transmission wave is an electromagnetic wave or the like, for example. The electromagnetic wave is a millimeter wave or the like, for example. The target object is a vehicle **16**, a person (not shown in the drawings), or the like, for example, but is not limited to this. The radar **62** generates radar information (reflected wave signal) based on the reflected wave and the like. The radar **62** supplies the moving body control apparatus **50** with the generated radar information. One radar **62** is shown in FIG. 1, but the moving body **14** actually includes a plurality of radars **62**. The radar **62** is not limited to being a millimeter wave radar. For example, a laser radar or the like may be used as the radar **62**.

The camera (imaging section) **64** can capture an image of the surroundings of the moving body **14**. A camera capable of acquiring three-dimensional information, for example, can be used as the camera **64**. The information acquired by the camera **64**, i.e. the camera information, is supplied from the camera **64** to the moving body control apparatus **50**. One camera **64** is shown in FIG. 1, but a plurality of cameras **64** are actually included. The orientation of the camera **64** can be adjusted by an actuator (not shown in the drawings).

The ultrasonic wave sensor **66** emits an ultrasonic wave toward the target object, and receives a reflected wave resulting from the target object reflecting back the emitted transmission wave. The ultrasonic wave sensor **66** can detect the presence or lack of a target object, the distance to the target object, and the like. The ultrasonic wave sensor **66** generates ultrasonic wave sensor information based on the reflected wave and the like. The ultrasonic wave sensor **66** supplies the generated ultrasonic wave sensor information to the moving body control apparatus **50**. One ultrasonic wave sensor **66** is shown in FIG. 1, but the moving body **14** actually includes a plurality of ultrasonic wave sensors **66**.

The external environment information can be formed by the radar information acquired by the radar **62**, the camera information acquired by the camera **64**, and the ultrasonic wave sensor information acquired by the ultrasonic wave sensor **66**, but is not limited to this.

The GNSS sensor **68** can detect the current position of the moving body **14**. The information acquired by the GNSS sensor **68**, i.e. the information indicating the current position of the moving body **14** (moving body position information), is supplied to the moving body control apparatus **50**.

The raindrop sensor **70** detects the presence or lack of raindrops, and outputs a signal indicating the detection result to the moving body control apparatus **50**. A raindrop sensor that detects the presence or lack of raindrops by detecting a change in electrostatic capacitance caused by raindrops falling between a pair of electrodes, for example, can be used as the raindrop sensor **70**, but the raindrop sensor **70** is not limited to this.

The label reader **72** can read information recorded on a label (not shown in the drawings) attached to the package **74**. This label is a label or the like on which information such as an address (e.g. to the compartment of the vehicle **16** or the like) or a barcode is recorded, but is not limited to this. The label reader **72** includes a lighting section (not shown in

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the drawings), a camera (not shown in the drawings), and a barcode reader (not shown in the drawings). The label reader **72** radiates light onto the package **74** using the lighting section, and captures an image of the label using the camera.

The image acquired by capturing an image of the label is supplied to the barcode reader. The barcode reader acquires the information recorded on the label, based on this image. The information acquired by the barcode reader can be supplied to the moving body control apparatus **50**.

The sensor group **48** can further include a speedometer (not shown in the drawings), an altimeter (not shown in the drawings), and a gyro sensor (not shown in the drawings). The speedometer can detect the movement velocity of the moving body **14**, more specifically the flight velocity. The altimeter can detect the distance from the ground positioned below the moving body **14** to the moving body **14**, i.e. the ground altitude (altitude). The gyro sensor can detect the angular velocity of the moving body **14**. The angular velocity includes the angular velocity relative to an up-down axis (yaw), the angular velocity relative to a left-right axis (pitch), and the angular velocity relative to a front-rear axis (roll).

The moving body control apparatus **50** performs overall control of the moving body **14**. The moving body control apparatus **50** causes the moving body **14** to move (fly) autonomously from a departure location (delivery source) to a target location (delivery destination).

The moving body control apparatus **50** includes a computing unit **76** and a storage unit **78**. The computing unit **76** performs overall control of the moving body control apparatus **50**. The computing unit **76** can be formed by a CPU, an ASIC, or the like, for example, but is not limited to this. The computing unit **76** controls the moving body **14** by controlling each section based on a program stored in the storage unit **78**.

The computing unit **76** includes a weather information acquiring unit **80**, an attribute information acquiring unit **82**, a storage space information acquiring unit **84**, a person information acquiring unit **86**, a judging unit **88**, and a control unit **89**. The weather information acquiring unit **80**, the attribute information acquiring unit **82**, the storage space information acquiring unit **84**, the person information acquiring unit **86**, the judging unit **88**, and the control unit **89** can be realized by having the computing unit **76** execute the program stored in the storage unit **78**.

The storage unit **78** includes a volatile memory (not shown in the drawings) and a non-volatile memory (not shown in the drawings). The volatile memory is a RAM or the like, for example. The non-volatile memory is a ROM, a flash memory, or the like, for example. Weather information, attribute information, storage space information, person information, and the like are stored in the volatile memory, for example. Programs, tables, maps, and the like are stored in the non-volatile memory, for example.

The weather information acquiring unit **80** acquires the weather information. The weather information includes information concerning the weather at the delivery destination. In a case where the delivery destination is the vehicle **16**, the weather information acquiring unit **80** acquires weather information at the location of the vehicle **16**. This weather information can be obtained using a raindrop sensor **118** or the like included at the delivery destination, for example. In a case where the delivery destination is the vehicle **16**, the weather information can be acquired using the raindrop sensor **118** included in the vehicle **16**, for example. The weather information is not limited to information acquired by the raindrop sensor **118**. For example,

the weather information may be acquired based on meteorological information (meteorological data) and position information indicating the position of the delivery destination. The meteorological information may be meteorological information provided by a public agency or may be meteorological information provided by a private business or the like, for example. The weather information can further include information concerning the weather along the delivery route, but is not limited to this. The judging unit **88** can judge whether delivery of the package **74** to the delivery destination by the moving body **14** is possible, based on the weather information acquired by the weather information acquiring unit **80**. At the stage where the moving body **14** has reached an area near the delivery destination, the weather information can be acquired by the raindrop sensor **70** and the like included in the moving body **14**. The weather information acquiring unit **80** also acquires the weather information at the location of the moving body **14**. This weather information can be acquired by the raindrop sensor **70** included in the moving body **14**, for example.

The attribute information acquiring unit **82** can acquire the attribute information, which is information concerning an attribute of the package **74**. The attribute information can include information concerning the presence or lack of waterproofing measures for the package **74**. The information concerning the presence or lack of waterproofing measures for the package **74** is information indicating whether the package **74** is waterproof, for example. The judging unit **88** can judge whether delivery of the package **74** to the delivery destination by the moving body **14** is possible, further based on the attribute information acquired by the attribute information acquiring unit **82**. The judging unit **88** can judge whether delivery of the package **74** to the delivery destination by the moving body **14** is possible, based on whether waterproofing measures have been implemented for the package **74**. The information concerning the presence or lack of waterproofing measures for the package **74** is stored in advance in the server **12**, for example. The attribute information acquiring unit **82** can make a request to the server **12** for the information concerning the presence or lack of waterproofing measures for the package **74**. The information concerning the presence or lack of waterproofing measures for the package **74** may be read from the label attached to the package **74**, for example.

The storage space information acquiring unit (storage portion information acquiring unit) **84** can acquire the storage space information. The storage space information is information concerning the storage space (empty space) in a storage portion **106** included in the delivery destination. The judging unit **88** can judge whether to deliver (transport) the package **74** to the storage portion **106** with the moving body **14**, based on the storage space information acquired by the storage space information acquiring unit **84**. In a case where the delivery destination is the vehicle **16**, the storage portion **106** is a trunk provided in the vehicle **16**, for example. In such a case, the storage space is the empty space in the trunk, for example. The storage portion **106** is not limited to being a trunk in the vehicle **16**. The storage portion **106** may be inside the vehicle compartment (not shown in the drawings). In such a case, the storage space is an empty space within the vehicle compartment, for example. Here, an example is described of a case in which the storage portion **106** is provided in the vehicle **16**, but the present invention is not limited to this. For example, the storage portion **106** may be a delivery box (not shown in the drawings). In such a case, the storage space is the empty space in the delivery box.

The storage space information acquired by the storage space information acquiring unit **84** can include information concerning the size of the storage space. If no items are stored in the storage portion **106**, the size of the storage space is equivalent to the storage size of the storage portion **106**. The storage size of the storage portion **106** is the size of the inside of the storage portion **106** in a state where the storage portion **106** is empty. If there is a stored item inside the storage portion **106**, the storage space is decreased due to this stored item. Accordingly, if a stored item is present within the storage portion **106**, the size of the storage space is less than that of the storage portion **106**. If a stored item is present within the storage portion **106**, the empty space on one side or another side of this stored item can be the storage space. The judging unit **88** can judge whether delivery of the package **74** to the storage portion **106** is possible based on the size of the package **74**, i.e. the external dimensions of the package **74**, and the size of the storage space. The information concerning the size of the storage space within the storage portion **106** can be acquired by a storage portion sensor **124** included in the vehicle **16**. The control unit **89** included in the moving body **14** can make a request to the vehicle **16** to provide the information concerning the size of the storage space. Here, an example is described of a case in which the information concerning the size of the storage space is acquired by the storage portion sensor **124** included in the vehicle **16**, but the present invention is not limited to this. For example, the information concerning the size of the storage space can be acquired using the external environment sensor **67** included in the moving body **14**, in a state where a door (not shown in the drawings) to the storage portion **106** is open.

The storage space information acquired by the storage space information acquiring unit **84** can include information concerning the presence or lack of waterproofing measures for the storage portion **106**. The judging unit **88** can judge whether delivery of the package **74** to the storage portion **106** by the moving body **14** is possible, further based on whether waterproofing measures have been implemented for the storage portion **106**. For example, if it is raining at the location of the storage portion **106** and waterproofing measures have not been implemented for the storage portion **106**, the judging unit **88** can judge that the delivery of the package **74** to the storage portion **106** is impossible. It should be noted that, even in such a case, if the user permits the delivery of the package **74** to the storage portion **106**, the judging unit **88** can judge that the delivery of the package **74** to the storage portion **106** is possible. The permission for the delivery of the package **74** to the storage portion **106** when the weather is rainy can be performed by having the moving body **14** make an inquiry to the user, for example. The permission for the delivery of the package **74** to the storage portion **106** when the weather is rainy may be performed by the user when ordering the product or the like, for example. The information concerning waterproofing measures for the storage portion **106** can be stored in advance in a storage unit **138** included in a vehicle control apparatus **94**. The control unit **89** included in the moving body **14** can make a request to the vehicle **16** to provide the information concerning the waterproofing measures for the storage portion **106**.

The storage space information acquired by the storage space information acquiring unit **84** can include information concerning the dirtiness within the storage portion **106**. The judging unit **88** can judge whether the delivery of the package **74** to the storage portion **106** by the moving body **14** is possible, based on the dirtiness of the storage portion **106**. If the inside of the storage portion **106** is extremely

dirty due to mud or the like, there is a high possibility that the package 74 will be contaminated by the mud or the like. Accordingly, if the dirtiness within the storage portion 106 is greater than or equal to a dirtiness threshold value, the judging unit 88 can judge that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is impossible. On the other hand, if the inside of the storage portion 106 is not very dirty, there is a low possibility of the package 74 being contaminated. Accordingly, if the dirtiness within the storage portion 106 is less than or equal to the dirtiness threshold value, the judging unit 88 can judge that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is possible. The information concerning the dirtiness in the storage portion 106 can be acquired by the storage portion sensor 124 included in the vehicle 16. The control unit 89 included in the moving body 14 can make a request to the vehicle 16 to provide the information concerning the dirtiness in the storage portion 106. Here, an example is described of a case in which the information concerning the dirtiness in the storage portion 106 is acquired by the storage portion sensor 124 included in the vehicle 16, but the present invention is not limited to this. For example, the information concerning the dirtiness in the storage portion 106 can be acquired using the external environment sensor 67 included in the moving body 14, in a state where a door (not shown in the drawings) to the storage portion 106 is open.

The storage space information acquired by the storage space information acquiring unit 84 can include information concerning the degree of clutter within the storage portion 106. The judging unit 88 can judge whether the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 by the moving body 14 is possible, based on the degree of clutter in the storage portion 106. If the inside of the storage portion 106 is cluttered, there is a possibility that some kind of problem will occur when the package 74 is delivered to the inside of the storage portion 106. Accordingly, if the degree of clutter in the storage portion 106 is greater than or equal to a degree of clutter threshold value, the judging unit 88 can judge that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is impossible. On the other hand, if the inside of the storage portion 106 is not very cluttered, there is a low possibility that some kind of problem will occur. Accordingly, if the degree of clutter in the storage portion 106 is less than the degree of clutter threshold value, the judging unit 88 can judge that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is possible. The information concerning the degree of clutter in the storage portion 106 can be acquired by the storage portion sensor 124 included in the vehicle 16. The control unit 89 included in the moving body 14 can make a request to the vehicle 16 to provide the information concerning the degree of clutter in the storage portion 106. Here, an example is described of a case in which the information concerning the degree of clutter in the storage portion 106 is acquired by the storage portion sensor 124 included in the vehicle 16, but the present invention is not limited to this. For example, the information concerning the degree of clutter in the storage portion 106 can be acquired using the external environment sensor 67 included in the moving body 14, in a state where a door (not shown in the drawings) to the storage portion 106 is open.

The storage space information acquired by the storage space information acquiring unit 84 can include information concerning the flatness of the storage space in the storage portion 106. The judging unit 88 can judge whether the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 by the moving body 14 is possible, based on the flatness of the storage space in the storage portion 106. If the package 74

is loaded onto a stored item whose top surface is not flat, there is a possibility that some kind of problem will occur. Accordingly, in such a case, the judging unit 88 can judge that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is impossible. On the other hand, if the package 74 is loaded onto a stored item whose top surface is flat, there is a high possibility that no particular problem will occur. Accordingly, in such a case, the judging unit 88 can judge that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is possible. The information concerning the flatness of the storage space can be acquired by the storage portion sensor 124 included in the vehicle 16. The control unit 89 included in the moving body 14 can make a request to the vehicle 16 to provide the information concerning the flatness of the storage space. Here, an example is described of a case in which the information concerning the flatness of the storage portion 106 is acquired by the storage portion sensor 124 included in the vehicle 16, but the present invention is not limited to this. For example, the information concerning the flatness of the storage portion 106 can be acquired using the external environment sensor 67 included in the moving body 14, in a state where a door (not shown in the drawings) to the storage portion 106 is open.

The person information acquiring unit 86 acquires the person information, which is information concerning a person positioned in the space including the storage portion 106. The space including the storage portion 106 is the space around the storage portion 106, i.e. an area in the vicinity of the storage portion 106. For example, a space around the vehicle 16 in which the storage portion 106 is included can correspond to the space including the storage portion 106. Furthermore, as an example, the space around a delivery box installed in a parking lot of a shopping center (not shown in the drawings) is an example of the space including the storage portion 106. Here, an example is described of a case in which the storage portion 106 is included in the vehicle 16, but the present invention is not limited to this. If the storage portion 106 is included in the vehicle 16, the person information can be acquired by a person sensor (external environment sensor) 114 included in the vehicle 16. The control unit 89 included in the moving body 14 can make a request to the vehicle 16 to provide the person information. Here, an example is described of a case in which the person information is acquired by the person sensor 114 included in the vehicle 16, but the present invention is not limited to this. For example, the person information may be acquired using the external environment sensor 67 included in the moving body 14. Furthermore, the person sensor 114 may be formed by a monitoring sensor (monitoring camera) (not shown in the drawings) provided independently from the vehicle 16. The monitoring sensor can be attached to a building or the like, for example. The control unit 89 included in the moving body 14 can make a request to provide the person information to a server (not shown in the drawings) that acquires information using the monitoring sensor.

The judging unit 88 judges whether to limit the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 by the moving body 14, based on the person information acquired by the person information acquiring unit 86.

The person information acquired by the person information acquiring unit 86 can include information concerning whether a person is located in the space including the storage portion 106, more specifically, whether a person is located in the vicinity of the storage portion 106. The judging unit 88 can judge whether to limit the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 by the moving body 14, based on whether a person is located in the vicinity of the storage

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portion 106. For example, if a person is located in the vicinity of the storage portion 106, the judging unit 88 can judge that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is impossible. On the other hand, if there are no people located in the vicinity of the storage portion 106, the judging unit 88 can judge that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is possible.

The person information acquired by the person information acquiring unit 86 can include information concerning the orientation of the person. The judging unit 88 can judge whether to limit the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 by the moving body 14, based on the orientation of the person. For example, if the person is walking toward the storage portion 106, the judging unit 88 can judge that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is impossible. Essentially, if the orientation of the person is from the person toward the storage portion 106, the judging unit 88 suspends or stops the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 by the moving body 14. On the other hand, if the person is walking in a direction away from the storage portion 106, the judging unit 88 can judge that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is possible.

The person information acquired by the person information acquiring unit 86 can include information concerning the distance between the storage portion 106 and the person. The judging unit 88 can judge whether to limit the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 by the moving body 14, based on the distance between the storage portion 106 and the person. For example, if the distance between the storage portion 106 and the person is greater than or equal to a distance threshold value, the judging unit 88 can judge that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is possible. On the other hand, if the distance between the storage portion 106 and the person is less than the distance threshold value, the judging unit 88 can judge that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is impossible. Essentially, if the distance between the storage portion 106 and the person is less than the distance threshold value, the judging unit 88 suspends or stops the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 by the moving body 14.

The person information acquired by the person information acquiring unit 86 can include information concerning the walking velocity (movement velocity) of the person. The judging unit 88 can judge whether to limit the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 by the moving body 14, based on the walking velocity of the person. For example, if the walking velocity of the person is greater than or equal to a walking velocity threshold value (movement velocity threshold value), the judging unit 88 can judge that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is impossible. On the other hand, if the walking velocity of the person is less than walking velocity threshold value, the judging unit 88 can judge that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is possible.

The judging unit 88 can judge the time needed for the person to reach the storage portion 106, based on the information concerning the distance between the storage portion 106 and the person and the information concerning the walking velocity of the person. If the orientation of the person is a direction from the person toward the storage portion 106 and the time needed for the person to reach the storage portion 106 is less than the time needed for the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 by the moving body 14 to be completed, the judging unit 88 can perform a process such as shown below. Essentially, in such

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a case, the judging unit 88 can suspend or stop the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 by the moving body 14.

If any one of the distance between the storage portion 106 and the person, the movement velocity of the person, and the orientation of the person has changed during the delivery of the package 74 by the moving body 14, the judging unit 88 judges whether it is possible to continue the delivery of the package 74 by the moving body 14.

The control unit 89 can perform prescribed control, according to the judgment results of the judging unit 88. For example, if the judging unit 88 has judged that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is possible, the control unit 89 performs the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106. On the other hand, if the judging unit 88 has judged that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is impossible, the control unit 89 does not perform the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106.

The drive apparatus 52 includes a plurality of probes (not shown in the drawings) and a plurality of probe actuators (not shown in the drawings). Each probe actuator includes an electric motor, for example. The control unit 89 can control the movements of the moving body 14 by performing prescribed control of the drive apparatus 52.

The water damage prevention mechanism 54 can implement waterproofing measures for the package 74. Specifically, the water damage prevention mechanism 54 can prevent raindrops from reaching the package 74 by using rain repellent or the like (not shown in the drawings).

The holding mechanism (catcher) 55 has a function for gripping the package 74. The holding mechanism 55 further has a function for measuring the weight of the package 74. The holding mechanism 55 further has a function for measuring the size of the package 74.

The vehicle 16 includes a communicating apparatus (communicating unit) 90, a sensor group 92, a vehicle control apparatus 94, a drive apparatus 96, a brake apparatus 98, a steering apparatus 100, an ignition switch 102, an opening/closing mechanism 104, and the storage portion 106. The vehicle 16 can include other configurational elements, but descriptions thereof are omitted here.

The communicating unit 90 includes a telephone network communicating unit 108, the short-range wireless communicating unit 110, and the wireless LAN communicating unit 112. The telephone network communicating unit 108 includes a communication module (not shown in the drawings) that can be adapted to a mobile telephone network. The telephone network communicating unit 108 can communicate via a telephone network. The short-range wireless communicating unit 110 includes a short-range wireless communication module (not shown in the drawings). A communication module adapted to the Bluetooth (Registered Trademark) standard, for example, can be used as the short-range wireless communication module. The short-range wireless communicating unit 110 can perform short-range wireless communication with the short-range wireless communicating unit 58 included in the moving body 14. The wireless LAN communicating unit 112 includes a wireless LAN module (not shown in the drawings). A module adapted to the Wi-Fi (Registered Trademark) standard, for example, can be used as the wireless LAN module. The wireless LAN communicating unit 112 can perform wireless communication with the wireless LAN communicating unit 60 included in the moving body 14.

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The sensor group 92 can include the person sensor 114, a GNSS sensor 116, the raindrop sensor 118, a velocity sensor 120, a gear position sensor 122, a storage portion sensor 124, and a humidity sensor 126.

The person sensor (external environment sensor) 114 can include a radar 128, a camera 130, and an ultrasonic wave sensor 132.

The radar 128 emits a transmission wave toward a target object and receives a reflected wave resulting from the target object reflecting back the emitted transmission wave. The transmission wave is an electromagnetic wave or the like, for example. The electromagnetic wave is a millimeter wave or the like, for example. The target object is a person or the like, for example, but is not limited to this. The radar 128 generates radar information (reflected wave signal) based on the reflected wave and the like. The radar 128 supplies the vehicle control apparatus 94 with the generated radar information. One radar 128 is shown in FIG. 1, but the vehicle 16 actually includes a plurality of radars 128. The radar 128 is not limited to being a millimeter wave radar. For example, a laser radar or the like may be used as the radar 128.

The camera 130 can capture an image of the surroundings of the vehicle 16. The information acquired by the camera 130, i.e. the camera information, is supplied from the camera 130 to the vehicle control apparatus 94. The camera information can include imaging information, specifically a moving image, a still image, and the like. One camera 130 is shown in FIG. 1, but a plurality of cameras 130 are actually included. The orientation of the camera 130 can be adjusted by an actuator (not shown in the drawings).

The ultrasonic wave sensor 132 emits an ultrasonic wave toward the target object, and receives a reflected wave resulting from the target object reflecting back the emitted transmission wave. The ultrasonic wave sensor 132 can detect the presence or lack of a target object, the distance to the target object, and the like. The ultrasonic wave sensor 132 generates ultrasonic wave sensor information based on the reflected wave and the like. The ultrasonic wave sensor 132 supplies the generated ultrasonic wave sensor information to the vehicle control apparatus 94. One ultrasonic wave sensor 132 is shown in FIG. 1, but the vehicle 16 actually includes a plurality of ultrasonic wave sensors 132.

The external environment information can be formed by the radar information acquired by the radar 128, the camera information acquired by the camera 130, and the ultrasonic wave sensor information acquired by the ultrasonic wave sensor 132, but is not limited to this.

The GNSS sensor 116 can detect the current position of the vehicle 16. The information acquired by the GNSS sensor 116, i.e. the information indicating the current position of the vehicle 16 (vehicle position information), can be supplied to the vehicle control apparatus 94.

The raindrop sensor 118 can detect the presence or lack of raindrops and output a signal indicating the detection result. A raindrop sensor that detects the presence or lack of raindrops by detecting a change in electrostatic capacitance caused by raindrops falling between a pair of electrodes, for example, can be used as the raindrop sensor 118, but the raindrop sensor 118 is not limited to this. The information acquired by the raindrop sensor 118 can be supplied to the vehicle control apparatus 94.

The velocity sensor (vehicle velocity sensor) 120 can detect the velocity of the vehicle 16, i.e. the vehicle velocity. The information acquired by the velocity sensor 120 can be supplied to the vehicle control apparatus 94.

The gear position sensor (shift position sensor) 122 detects the content of a manipulation performed by a user

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using a shift lever (selection lever or selector) (not shown in the drawings), and outputs the detected manipulation content to the vehicle control apparatus 94. Essentially, the gear position sensor 122 detects the shift position of the shift lever and outputs the detected shift position to the vehicle control apparatus 94. The shift lever has a plurality of shift positions. Specifically, the shift lever has a shift position for causing the vehicle 16 to move forward, i.e. a D range. Furthermore, the shift lever also has a shift position for causing the vehicle 16 to move backward, i.e. an R range. The shift lever also has an L range and an N range. The shift lever has a P range used when parking the vehicle. Here, an example is described of a case in which the shift position of the shift lever is detected, but the present invention is not limited to this. For example, in a case where a P button is used when parking the vehicle, a detection concerning whether this P button has been pressed may be performed.

The storage portion sensor 124 can detect an item stored in the storage portion 106, i.e. a stored item. The storage portion sensor 124 is included inside the storage portion 106, for example, but the present invention is not limited to this. A camera capable of acquiring three-dimensional information (in-vehicle camera), a pressure sensor provided on a floor surface in the vehicle compartment (not shown in the drawings), or the like, for example, can be used as the storage portion sensor 124. An image of the inside of the storage portion 106 can be captured by the storage portion sensor 124 while the inside of the storage portion 106 is being illuminated by the illumination apparatus (not shown in the drawings). The information acquired by the storage portion sensor 124 can be supplied to the vehicle control apparatus 94.

The humidity sensor 126 can detect the humidity in the storage portion 106. The information acquired by the humidity sensor 126 can be supplied to the vehicle control apparatus 94.

The vehicle control apparatus 94 includes a computing unit 136 and a storage unit 138. The computing unit 136 includes a judging unit 134 and a control unit 137. The judging unit 134 and the control unit 137 can be realized by having the computing unit 136 execute the programs stored in the storage unit 138.

The control unit 137 performs overall control of the vehicle 16, and performs prescribed control. The control unit 137 performs vehicle control by controlling each section based on the programs stored in the storage unit 138. The computing unit 136 can be formed by a CPU, an ASIC, or the like, for example.

The judging unit 134 can sense a person located in a space including the storage portion 106, based on the external environment information acquired by the person sensor 114. Specifically, the judging unit 134 can judge whether a person is located in the vicinity of the storage portion 106. Furthermore, the judging unit 134 can judge the orientation of the person relative to the storage portion 106, based on the external environment information acquired by the person sensor 114. The judging unit 134 can judge the distance between the storage portion 106 and the person, based on the external environment information acquired by the person sensor 114. The judging unit 134 can judge the walking velocity of the person, based on the external environment information acquired by the person sensor 114. The person information is generated according to such judgments made by the judging unit 134. The person information can include information indicating whether or not the person is located in the vicinity of the storage portion 106. The person information can include information indicating the orienta-

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tion of the person relative to the storage portion **106**. The person information can include information indicating the distance between the storage portion **106** and the person. The person information can include information indicating the walking velocity of the person.

The storage unit **138** includes a volatile memory (not shown in the drawings) and a non-volatile memory (not shown in the drawings). The volatile memory is a RAM or the like, for example. The non-volatile memory is a ROM, a flash memory, or the like, for example. The weather information, attribute information, storage space information, person information, and the like are stored in the volatile memory, for example. Programs, tables, maps, and the like are stored in the non-volatile memory, for example.

The drive apparatus (drive force control system) **96** includes a drive ECU (not shown in the drawings) and a drive source (not shown in the drawings). The drive ECU controls the drive force (torque) of the vehicle **16** by controlling the drive source. An engine, drive motor, or the like is used as the drive source, for example. The drive ECU can control the drive force by controlling the drive source, based on a manipulation of an acceleration pedal made by the user. The drive ECU can control the drive force by controlling the drive source, based on a command supplied from the vehicle control apparatus **94**. The drive force of the drive source is transmitted to the vehicle wheels (not shown in the drawings), via a transmission or the like (not shown in the drawings).

The brake apparatus (brake force control system) **98** includes a brake ECU (not shown in the drawings) and a brake mechanism (not shown in the drawings). The brake mechanism causes a brake member to operate using a brake motor, a hydraulic mechanism, or the like. The brake ECU is capable of controlling the brake force by controlling the brake mechanism based on the operation made by the user with respect to the brake pedal. The brake ECU can control the brake force by controlling the brake mechanism, based on a command supplied from the vehicle control apparatus **94**.

The steering apparatus (steering system) **100** includes a steering ECU (not shown in the drawings), i.e. an EPS (Electric Power Steering) system ECU, and a steering motor (not shown in the drawings). The steering ECU controls the orientation of the vehicle wheels (steered wheels) by controlling the steering motor, based on a manipulation of a steering wheel (not shown in the drawings) made by the user. The steering ECU controls the orientation of the vehicle wheels by controlling the steering motor, based on a command supplied from the vehicle control apparatus **94**. The steering may be performed by changing the torque distribution or brake force distribution for the left and right vehicle wheels.

The ignition switch (main switch) **102** is a switch for the main power source of the vehicle **16**. A signal indicating whether the ignition switch **102** is in the ON state can be supplied from the ignition switch **102** to the vehicle control apparatus **94**.

The opening/closing mechanism **104** is a component for opening and closing a door (not shown in the drawings) of the storage portion **106**. The opening/closing mechanism **104** can be controlled by the vehicle control apparatus **94**.

The storage portion **106** is a trunk (not shown in the drawings) included in the vehicle **16**, for example, but is not limited to this. For example, the compartment of the vehicle **16** may be the storage portion **106**.

FIG. 2 is a flow chart showing an example of an operation of a delivery system according to the present embodiment.

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Before step S1 is performed, the ordering of a product, the reception of the product order, the preparation for the delivery of the package **74** including this product, and the like are completed. Furthermore, before step S1 is performed, the possibility of the delivery of the package **74** to the delivery destination may be judged based on the weather information.

At step S1, the delivery is started. Specifically, the server **12** transmits a command for starting the delivery of the package **74**, to the moving body **14**. The control unit **89** included in the moving body **14** performs control to grip the package **74** with the holding mechanism **55**. The control unit **89** causes the moving body **14** to start moving (flying) by controlling the drive apparatus **52** and the like. The moving body **14** moves from the delivery source to the delivery destination. Here, an example is described of a case in which the delivery destination is the vehicle **16**, but the present invention is not limited to this. The server **12** notifies the vehicle **16** that the delivery of the package **74** by the moving body **14** has started. This notification may also be provided to the user terminal **18**. The control unit **89** transmits the information concerning the package **74** to be delivered, to the vehicle **16**. After this, the process moves to step S2.

At step S2, movement control (flying control or delivery control) is performed. Specifically, the control unit **89** included in the moving body **14** causes the moving body **14** to move toward the delivery destination, based on the delivery route determined in advance by the server **12**. In this way, the moving body **14** reaches the delivery destination. The details of the movement control are described further below using FIG. 3. When step S2 has been completed, the process moves to step S3.

At step S3, control for the sensing of the situation in the vicinity of the storage portion **106**, that is, vicinity situation sensing control, is performed. The delivery of the package **74** to the storage portion **106** is limited according to the situation in the vicinity of the storage portion **106**. The details of the vicinity situation sensing control are described below using FIG. 4. When step S3 has been completed, the process moves to step S4.

At step S4, the control of the delivery of the package **74** to the storage portion **106**, i.e. the delivery control, is performed. The details of the delivery control are described further below using FIG. 5. When step S4 has been completed, the process moves to step S5.

At step S5, the control unit **89** included in the moving body **14** provides notification that the delivery of the package **74** to the storage portion **106** has been completed. This notification can be made to the vehicle **16** from the moving body **14**, for example, but the present invention is not limited to this. For example, this notification may be made from the moving body **14** to the server **12**. Alternatively, this notification may be made from the moving body **14** to the user terminal **18**.

In a case where the delivery of the package **74** to the storage portion **106** is not performed, at step S6, a notification that the delivery of the package **74** has been suspended without the package **74** being delivered to the storage portion **106** is provided. This notification is made from the moving body **14** to the vehicle **16**, for example, but the present invention is not limited to this. For example, this notification may be made from the moving body **14** to the server **12**. Alternatively, this notification may be made from the moving body **14** to the user terminal **18**. After this, the process moves to step S7. The moving body **14** brings the package **74** back to the delivery source, e.g. the warehouse, without delivering the package **74** to the storage portion **106**.

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At step S7, the control unit **89** included in the moving body **14** judges whether redelivery has been requested. The redelivery request can be performed by having the user manipulate the user terminal **18**, for example. The redelivery request is received by the server **12**. If a redelivery request is received, the server **12** sends a redelivery command to the moving body **14**. If redelivery has been requested (YES at step S7), the processes from step S1 are repeated. If redelivery has not been requested (NO at step S7), the process moves to step S8.

At step S8, the control unit **89** included in the moving body **14** judges whether a prescribed time has passed. If the prescribed time has not passed (NO of step S8), step S7 is repeated. If the prescribed time has passed (YES at step S8), the process shown in FIG. 2 is finished.

FIG. 3 is a flow chart showing an example of an operation of the delivery system according to the present embodiment. FIG. 3 shows an example of movement control.

At step S11, the control unit **89** included in the moving body **14** makes a request to the vehicle **16** for the vehicle position information, travel state information, and the weather information. As described above, the vehicle position information is information indicating the current position of the vehicle **16**. The travel state information is information indicating a travel state of the vehicle **16**. The weather information is information indicating the weather at the location of the vehicle **16**. More specifically, the weather information is information indicating whether the weather is rainy.

At step S12, the control unit **137** included in the vehicle **16** transmits the vehicle position information, the travel state information, and the weather information to the moving body control apparatus **50** included in the moving body **14**. In this way, the weather information acquiring unit **80** included in the moving body **14** acquires the weather information. Here, an example is described of a case in which the weather at the location of the vehicle **16** is judged based on the weather information supplied from the vehicle **16**, but the present invention is not limited to this. For example, the weather at the location of the vehicle **16** may be judged based on the meteorological information and the vehicle position information.

At step S13, the judging unit **88** included in the moving body **14** judges whether it is raining at the location of the vehicle **16**, based on the weather information acquired by the weather information acquiring unit **80**. If it is not raining at the location of the vehicle **16** (YES at step S13), the process moves to step S15. If it is raining at the location of the vehicle **16** (NO at step S13), the process moves to step S14.

At step S14, the judging unit **88** included in the moving body **14** judges whether to continue the delivery. For example, if the package **74** is waterproof or the like, it is possible to continue the delivery of the package **74** even when it is raining. If the delivery of the package **74** is to be continued (YES at step S14), the process moves to step S15. If the delivery of the package **74** is not to be continued (NO at step S14), the process moves to step S6 (see FIG. 2).

At step S15, the judging unit **88** included in the moving body **14** judges whether the moving body **14** is to follow the vehicle **16** until a prescribed timing, which is a delivery limit. The computing unit **76** judges whether the moving body **14** is to follow the vehicle **16** until the prescribed timing, based on the vehicle position information indicating the position of the vehicle **16**, the travel state information indicating the travel state of the vehicle **16**, the movement velocity of the moving body **14**, and the like. If the moving body **14** can catch up to the vehicle **16** by the prescribed

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timing (YES at step S15), the process moves to step S16. If the moving body **14** cannot catch up to the vehicle **16** by the prescribed timing (NO at step S15), the process moves to step S6 (see FIG. 2).

At step S16, the judging unit **88** included in the moving body **14** judges whether the delivery of the package **74** to the delivery destination is possible. In this case, the control unit **89** causes the moving body **14** to continue moving toward the delivery destination. After this, the process moves to step S17.

At step S17, the judging unit **88** included in the moving body **14** judges whether the distance from the moving body **14** to the vehicle **16** is less than the distance threshold value. The judging unit **88** can judge whether the distance from the moving body **14** to the vehicle **16** is less than the distance threshold value based on the vehicle position information indicating the current position of the vehicle **16** and the moving body position information indicating the current position of the moving body **14**. The judging unit **88** may judge whether the distance from the moving body **14** to the vehicle **16** is less than the distance threshold value based on the external environment information acquired by the external environment sensor **67** included in the moving body **14**. If the distance from the moving body **14** to the vehicle **16** is less than the distance threshold value (YES at step S17), the process moves to step S18. If the distance from the moving body **14** to the vehicle **16** is greater than or equal to the distance threshold value (NO at step S17), the process returns to step S11.

At step S18, the control unit **89** included in the moving body **14** causes the moving body **14** to move at a velocity equal to the travel velocity of the vehicle **16**. After this, the process moves to step S19.

At step S19, the judging unit **134** included in the vehicle **16** judges whether the main power source of the vehicle **16** is OFF, i.e. whether the ignition switch **102** is in the OFF state. The control unit **137** transmits the information indicating the judgment result of the judging unit **134** to the moving body **14**. The control unit **89** included in the moving body **14** can judge whether the vehicle **16** is stopped, based on such information. If the main power source of the vehicle **16** is OFF (YES at step S19), the process shown in FIG. 3 is finished. If the main power source of the vehicle **16** is ON (NO of step S19), the process moves to step S20.

At step S20, the judging unit **134** included in the vehicle **16** judges whether the shift position of the shift lever is in the P range. The control unit **137** transmits the information indicating the judgment result of the judging unit **134** to the moving body **14**. The control unit **89** included in the moving body **14** can judge whether the vehicle **16** is stopped, based on such information. If the shift position of the shift lever is not in the P range (NO of step S20), the process returns to step S11. If the shift position of the shift lever is in the P range (YES of step S20), the process shown in FIG. 3 is finished.

The movement control is performed in the manner described above.

FIG. 4 is a flow chart showing an example of an operation of the delivery system according to the present embodiment. FIG. 4 shows an example of the vicinity situation sensing control. The vicinity situation sensing control can be performed to reduce the risk of theft or the like of the package **74** by a person in the vicinity of the storage portion **106**, for example.

At step S21, the control unit **89** included in the moving body **14** makes a request to the vehicle **16** to provide the person information. As described above, the person infor-

mation is information concerning a person located in the space including the storage portion 106. Here, an example is described of a case in which the person information is acquired by the person sensor 114 included in the vehicle 16, but the present invention is not limited to this. The person information may instead be acquired by the external environment sensor 67 included in the moving body 14. After this, the process moves to step S22.

At step S22, the control unit 137 included in the vehicle 16 transmits the person information to the moving body 14. As described above, the person information can include information indicating whether a person is located in the vicinity of the storage portion 106. Furthermore, as described above, the person information can include information indicating the orientation of the person relative to the storage portion 106. As described above, the person information can include information indicating the distance between the storage portion 106 and the person. As described above, the person information can include information indicating the walking velocity of the person. After this, the process moves to step S23.

At step S23, the judging unit 88 included in the moving body 14 judges whether a person is located in the vicinity of the storage portion 106, based on the person information. As described above, the person information can include information indicating whether a person is located in the vicinity of the storage portion 106. Therefore, the judging unit 88 can judge whether a person is located in the vicinity of the storage portion 106, based on this information. If a person is not located in the vicinity of the storage portion 106 (YES at step S23), the process shown in FIG. 4 is finished. If a person is located in the vicinity of the storage portion 106 (NO at step S23), the process moves to step S24.

At step S24, the judging unit 88 included in the moving body 14 judges whether the person is moving away from the storage portion 106. As described above, the person information can include information indicating the orientation of the person relative to the storage portion 106. As described above, the person information can include information indicating the walking velocity of the person. Therefore, the judging unit 88 can judge whether the person is moving away from the storage portion 106, based on these pieces of information. If the person is moving away from the storage portion 106 (YES at step S24), the process shown in FIG. 4 is finished. If the person is not moving away from the storage portion 106 (NO at step S24), the process moves to step S25.

At step S25, the judging unit 88 included in the moving body 14 judges whether the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 will be completed by the timing at which the person reaches the storage portion 106. As described above, the person information can include information concerning the orientation of the person relative to the storage portion 106. As described above, the person information can include information indicating the distance between the storage portion 106 and the person. As described above, the person information can include information indicating the walking velocity of the person. Therefore, the judging unit 88 can judge the time needed for the person to reach the storage portion 106, i.e. a first time. Furthermore, the judging unit 88 can judge the time needed for the moving body 14 to reach the storage portion 106, i.e. a second time, based on the moving body position information, the vehicle position information, and the movement velocity of the moving body 14. The judging unit 88 can judge the time needed for judging whether the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is possible, i.e. a third time. The judging unit 88 can judge the time needed for the package

74 to be delivered to the storage portion 106, i.e. a fourth time. The sum of the second time, the third time, and the fourth time is the time needed for the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 to be completed. If the sum of the second time, the third time, and the fourth time is less than the first time, the judging unit 88 can judge that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 will be completed by the timing at which the person reaches the storage portion 106. If the sum of the second time, the third time, and the fourth time is greater than or equal to the first time, the judging unit 88 can judge that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 will not be completed by the time the person reaches the storage portion 106. The method for judging whether the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 will be completed by the timing at which the person reaches the storage portion 106 is not limited to the above. If the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 can be completed by the timing at which the person reaches the storage portion 106 (YES at step S25), the process shown in FIG. 4 is finished. If the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 cannot be completed by the timing at which the person reaches the storage portion 106 (NO at step S25), the process moves to step S26.

At step S26, the judging unit 88 included in the moving body 14 judges whether a prescribed time has passed from when the vicinity situation sensing control started. If the prescribed time has passed from when the vicinity situation sensing control started (YES at step S26), the process moves to step S27. If the prescribed time has not passed from when the vicinity situation sensing control started (NO step S26), the processes from step S21 are repeated.

At step S27, the control unit 89 included in the moving body 14 provides the vehicle 16 with notification that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is impossible. In such a case, the notification that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is impossible may be provided to the user terminal 18 from the control unit 137 included in the vehicle 16. Here, an example is described of a case in which this notification is provided to the vehicle 16 from the moving body 14, but the present invention is not limited to this. This notification may be provided to the user terminal 18 from the moving body 14. After this, the process moves to step S28.

At step S28, the control unit 89 included in the moving body 14 judges whether a request for the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 has been received. This request can be made by having the user manipulate the user terminal 18, for example. If the request for the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 has been received (YES at step S28), the process moves to step S29. If the request for the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 has not been received (NO at step S28), the process moves to step S6.

At step S29, the control unit 89 included in the moving body 14 judges that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is possible. When step S29 is completed, the process shown in FIG. 4 is finished.

The vicinity situation sensing control is performed in the manner described above.

FIG. 5 is a flow chart showing an example of an operation of the delivery system according to the present embodiment. FIG. 5 shows an example of delivery control.

At step S31, the storage space information acquiring unit 84 included in the moving body 14 makes a request to the vehicle 16 to provide the information forming a portion of the storage space information. Specifically, the storage space

information acquiring unit **84** makes a request to the vehicle **16** to provide information indicating the shape of the storage portion **106**, the storage size of the storage portion **106**, and the like. The storage space information acquiring unit **84** makes a request to the vehicle **16** to provide information indicating the presence or lack of stored items inside the storage portion **106**. The storage space information acquiring unit **84** makes a request to the vehicle **16** to provide information concerning the presence or lack of waterproofing measures for the storage portion **106**. The storage space information acquiring unit **84** makes a request to the vehicle **16** to provide information indicating the humidity in the storage portion **106**, for example. The storage space information acquiring unit **84** makes a request to the vehicle **16** to provide information indicating the position of the storage portion **106** in the vehicle **16**. After this, the process moves to step **S32**.

At step **S32**, the control unit **137** included in the vehicle **16** transmits the storage space information such as described above to the moving body **14**. After this, the process moves to step **S33**.

At step **S33**, the judging unit **88** included in the moving body **14** judges whether it is raining at the location of the vehicle **16**, based on the weather information acquired by the weather information acquiring unit **80**. The weather information acquiring unit **80** can acquire the weather information using the raindrop sensor **118** included in the vehicle **16**, for example, but the present invention is not limited to this. The weather information acquiring unit **80** may acquire the weather information using the raindrop sensor **70** included in the moving body **14**. If it is not raining at the location of the vehicle **16** (YES at step **S33**), the process moves to step **S36**. If it is raining at the location of the vehicle **16** (NO at step **S33**), the process moves to step **S34**.

At step **S34**, the judging unit **88** included in the moving body **14** judges whether to continue the delivery of the package **74**. For example, if the package **74** is waterproof or the like, it is possible to continue the delivery of the package **74** even if it is raining. If the delivery of the package **74** is to continue (YES at step **S34**), the process moves to step **S35**. If the delivery of the package **74** is not to continue (NO at step **S34**), the process moves to step **S6** (see FIG. 2).

At step **S35**, the judging unit **88** included in the moving body **14** judges whether waterproofing measures have been implemented for the storage portion **106**. As described above, the storage space information supplied from the vehicle **16** includes information concerning the presence or lack of waterproofing measures for the storage portion **106**. Accordingly, the judging unit **88** can judge whether waterproofing measures have been implemented for the storage portion **106**, based on this information. If waterproofing measures have been implemented for the storage portion **106** (YES at step **S35**), the process moves to step **S36**. If waterproofing measures have not been implemented for the storage portion **106** (NO at step **S35**), the process moves to step **S6** (see FIG. 2).

At step **S36**, the control unit **89** included in the moving body **14** makes a request to the vehicle **16** to open a door of the storage portion **106**. The control unit **137** included in the vehicle **16** opens the door of the storage portion **106** by controlling the opening/closing mechanism **104**.

At step **S37**, the control unit **89** included in the moving body **14** performs control causing the moving body **14** to observe the inside of the storage portion **106**. Specifically, the control unit **89** causes the moving body **14** to be located at a position where it is possible to observe the inside of the storage portion **106**. The control unit **89** causes the external

environment sensor **67** to acquire an image of the inside of the storage portion **106**. Such information acquired by the external environment sensor **67** forms a portion of the storage space information. The information indicative of the inside of the storage portion **106** is thus acquired by the storage space information acquiring unit **84**. Here, an example is described of a case in which the state inside the storage portion **106** is observed by the external environment sensor **67** included in the moving body **14**, but the present invention is not limited to this. For example, the state inside the moving body **14** may be observed by the storage portion sensor **124** included in the vehicle **16**. After this, the process moves to step **S38**.

At step **S38**, the judging unit **88** included in the moving body **14** judges whether the storage size of the storage portion **106** is greater than or equal to the size of the package **74**. If the storage size of the storage portion **106** is greater than or equal to the size of the package **74** (YES at step **S38**), the process moves to step **S39**. If storage size of the storage portion **106** is less than the size of the package **74** (NO at step **S38**), the process moves to step **S43**. The information concerning the storage size of the storage portion **106** can be supplied to the moving body **14** from the vehicle **16**, as described above.

At step **S39**, the judging unit **88** included in the moving body **14** judges whether the size of a floor surface of the storage space (empty space) is greater than or equal to the size of a bottom surface of the package **74**. If the size of the floor surface of the storage space is greater than or equal to the size of the bottom surface of the package **74** (YES at step **S39**), the process moves to step **S41**. If the size of the floor surface of the storage space is less than the size of the bottom surface of the package **74** (NO at step **S39**), the process moves to step **S40**.

At step **S40**, the judging unit **88** included in the moving body **14** judges whether a flat space is present in the storage portion **106** and whether the size of the floor surface of this space is greater than or equal to the size of the bottom surface of the package **74**. If a stored item with a flat top surface is already stored in the storage portion **106**, the space on the stored item can correspond to this flat space. If a flat space is present in the storage portion **106** and the size of the floor surface of this space is greater than or equal to the size of the bottom surface of the package **74** (YES at step **S40**), the process moves to step **S41**. If there is no flat space in the storage portion **106** (NO at step **S40**), the process moves to step **S44**. If there is a flat space in the storage portion **106** but the size of the floor surface of this space is less than the size of the bottom surface of the package **74** (NO at step **S40**), the process moves to step **S44**.

At step **S41**, the judging unit **88** included in the moving body **14** judges whether the height of the package **74** is less than or equal to the height of the storage portion **106**. Essentially, the judging unit **88** included in the moving body **14** judges whether the position of the top end (top surface) of the package **74** is lower than the position of the top end of the storage portion **106**. If the height of the package **74** is less than or equal to the height of the storage portion **106** (YES at step **S41**), the process moves to step **S42**. If the height of the package **74** is greater than the height of the storage portion **106** (NO at step **S41**), the process moves to step **S44**.

At step **S42**, the judging unit **88** included in the moving body **14** judges that the delivery of the package **74** to the storage portion **106** is possible. After this, the process moves to step **S43**.

At step S43, the control unit 89 included in the moving body 14 performs the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106. When step S43 has been completed, the process shown in FIG. 5 is finished.

At step S44, the judging unit 88 included in the moving body 14 judges that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is impossible. The control unit 89 included in the moving body 14 provides the vehicle 16 with notification that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is impossible. In such a case, the notification that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is impossible may be provided to the user terminal 18 from the control unit 137 included in the vehicle 16. Here, an example is described of a case in which this notification is provided to the vehicle 16 from the moving body 14, but the present invention is not limited to this. This notification may be provided to the user terminal 18 from the moving body 14. The control unit 89 included in the moving body 14 may provide the notification described above, and also provide notification indicating the reason why the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is impossible.

At step S45, the judging unit 88 included in the moving body 14 judges whether a response that the inside of the storage portion 106 can be organized has been received from the notification destination. If the response that the inside of the storage portion 106 can be organized has been received from the notification destination (YES at step S45), the process moves to step S46. If the response that the inside of the storage portion 106 can be organized has not been received from the notification destination (NO at step S45), the process moves to step S48.

At step S46, the judging unit 88 included in the moving body 14 judges whether a notification indicating that the organization inside the storage portion 106 has been completed has been received from the notification destination. The organization of the inside of the storage portion 106 is performed by a passenger or the like of the vehicle 16, for example. If the notification indicating that the organization inside the storage portion 106 has been completed has been received from the notification destination (YES at step S46), the processes from step S37 are repeated. If the notification indicating that the organization inside the storage portion 106 has been completed has not been received from the notification destination (NO at step S46), the process moves to step S47.

At step S47, the judging unit 88 included in the moving body 14 judges whether a prescribed time has passed from when the notification that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is impossible was provided. If the prescribed time has passed from when the notification that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is impossible was provided (YES at step S47), the process moves to step S48. If the prescribed time has not passed from when the notification that the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is impossible was provided (NO at step S47), the process of step S46 is performed again.

At step S48, the control unit 89 included in the moving body 14 makes a request to the vehicle 16 to close the door of the storage portion 106. The control unit 137 included in the vehicle 16 closes the door of the storage portion 106 by controlling the opening/closing mechanism 104. After this, the process moves to step S6.

The delivery control is performed in the manner described above.

In this way, according to the present embodiment, the weather information including the information concerning the weather at the delivery destination is acquired, and a

judgment concerning whether the delivery of the package 74 to the delivery destination by the moving body 14 is possible is made based on this weather information. If it is raining at the delivery destination, the delivery is suspended, and therefore it is possible to prevent the package 74 from getting wet from the rain. Therefore, according to the present embodiment, it is possible to provide a delivery system 10 that can favorably deliver the package 74 to the delivery destination.

[Modifications of the Embodiments]

The above describes preferred embodiments of the present invention, but the present invention is not limited to the above embodiments, and various modifications can be made without deviating from the scope of the present invention.

In the above embodiments, an example is described of a case in which the possibility of the delivery of the package 74 to the delivery destination is judged by the judging unit 88 included in the moving body 14, but the present invention is not limited to this. For example, the possibility of the delivery of the package 74 to the delivery destination may be judged by the server 12, the vehicle 16, or the user terminal 18.

In the above embodiments, an example is described of a case in which the possibility of the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 is judged by the judging unit 88 included in the moving body 14, but the present invention is not limited to this. For example, the possibility of the delivery of the package 74 to the storage portion 106 may be judged by the server 12, the vehicle 16, or the user terminal 18.

The following is a summary of the embodiments described above.

A delivery system (10) for delivering a package (74) to a delivery destination (16) using a moving body (14), comprising a weather information acquiring unit (80) that acquires weather information including information concerning weather at the delivery destination; and a judging unit (88) that judges whether delivery of the package to the delivery destination by the moving body is possible, based on the weather information acquired by the weather information acquiring unit. According to such a configuration, the weather information including the information concerning the weather at the delivery destination is acquired, and the possibility of the delivery of the package to the delivery destination by the moving body is judged based on this weather information. If it is raining at the delivery destination, the delivery is suspended, and therefore it is possible to prevent the package from getting wet due to the rain. Therefore, according to such a configuration, it is possible to provide a delivery system that can favorably deliver the package to the delivery destination.

The weather information may be acquired using a sensor included at the delivery destination.

The sensor may be a raindrop sensor (118).

The weather information may be acquired based on meteorological information and position information indicating a position of the delivery destination.

The weather information may further include information concerning weather along a delivery route. According to such a configuration, if it is not raining at the delivery destination but it is raining along the delivery route, the delivery is suspended, and therefore it is possible to more reliably prevent the package from getting wet due to rain. With such a configuration, it is possible to provide a delivery system that can more favorably deliver the package to the delivery destination.

The delivery system may further comprise an attribute information acquiring unit (82) that acquires attribute information, which is information concerning an attribute of the package, and the judging unit may judge whether delivery of the package by the moving body is possible, further based on the attribute information acquired by the attribute information acquiring unit. According to such a configuration, it is possible to judge whether the delivery of the package by the moving body based on an attribute of the package. Therefore, according to such a configuration, it is possible to provide a delivery system that can more favorably deliver the package to the delivery destination.

The attribute information may include information concerning waterproofing measures for the package, and the judging unit may judge whether delivery of the package by the moving body is possible, based on whether waterproofing measures have been implemented for the package. According to such a configuration, if waterproofing measures have been implemented for the packaging of the package, the package can be delivered even in the rain. According to such a configuration, it is possible to provide a delivery system that can more favorably deliver the package to the delivery destination.

If waterproofing measures are implemented for the package, the judging unit may perform the delivery of the package by the moving body.

The moving body may be an autonomous flying body.

The delivery destination may be a vehicle (16).

The delivery system may further comprise a storage portion information acquiring unit that acquires information concerning waterproofing measures for a storage portion included at the delivery destination.

A delivery method comprises a step (S11, S12) of acquiring weather information including information concerning weather at a delivery destination; and a step (S13) of judging whether delivery of a package to the delivery destination by a moving body is possible, based on the weather information.

A computer-readable non-transitory recording medium stores thereon a program that causes a computer to perform a step of acquiring weather information including information concerning weather at a delivery destination; and a step of judging whether delivery of a package to the delivery destination by a moving body is possible, based on the weather information.

What is claimed is:

1. A delivery system for delivering a package to a delivery destination using a moving body, the delivery system comprising: a user terminal configured to transmit order information, a server configured to instruct the moving body to deliver the package on a basis of the order information received from the user terminal, a vehicle configured to communicate with the server and the moving body, and one or more processors included in the user terminal, the server, the vehicle, or the moving body, wherein

the delivery destination is the vehicle, and

the one or more processors cause the delivery system to:

acquire weather information including information concerning weather at the delivery destination;

judge whether delivery of the package to the delivery destination by the moving body is possible, based on the weather information acquired; and

on a basis of a judgment that it is possible to deliver the package to the vehicle, move the moving body to the vehicle if a main power source of the vehicle is ON or a shift lever of the vehicle is not in a parking range and if the vehicle is present at a distance less than a

distance threshold value from the moving body, the distance being obtained from the vehicle position information indicating a current position of the vehicle and moving body position information indicating a current position of the moving body.

2. The delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the weather information is acquired using a sensor included at the delivery destination.

3. The delivery system according to claim 2, wherein the sensor is a raindrop sensor.

4. The delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the weather information is acquired based on meteorological information and position information indicating a position of the delivery destination.

5. The delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the weather information further includes information concerning weather along a delivery route.

6. The delivery system according to claim 1, the one or more processors further acquire attribute information, which is information concerning an attribute of the package, wherein

the one or more processors judge whether delivery of the package by the moving body is possible, further based on the attribute information acquired.

7. The delivery system according to claim 6, wherein the attribute information includes information concerning waterproofing measures for the package, and the one or more processors judge whether delivery of the package by the moving body is possible, based on whether waterproofing measures have been implemented for the package.

8. The delivery system according to claim 7, wherein if waterproofing measures are implemented for the package, the one or more processors judge the delivery of the package by the moving body as possible.

9. The delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the moving body is an autonomous flying body.

10. The delivery system according to claim 1, the one or more processors further acquire information concerning waterproofing measures for a storage portion included at the delivery destination.

11. A delivery method for delivering a package to a delivery destination using a moving body, a user terminal configured to transmit order information, a server configured to instruct the moving body to deliver the package on a basis of the order information received from the user terminal, and a vehicle that is the delivery destination and configured to communicate with the server and the moving body, the delivery method comprising:

a step of acquiring weather information including information concerning weather at a delivery destination;

a step of making a judgment whether delivery of the package to the delivery destination by the moving body is possible, based on the weather information; and

on a basis of the judgment that it is possible to deliver the package to the vehicle, a step of moving the moving body to the vehicle if a main power source of the vehicle is ON or a shift lever of the vehicle is not in a parking range and if the vehicle is present at a distance less than a distance threshold value from the moving body, the distance being obtained from the vehicle position information indicating a current position of the vehicle and moving body position information indicating a current position of the moving body.

12. A computer-readable non-transitory recording medium storing thereon a program that causes a computer to effectuate a delivery of a package to a delivery destination

using a moving body, a user terminal configured to transmit order information, a server configured to instruct the moving body to deliver the package on a basis of the order information received from the user terminal, and a vehicle that is the delivery destination and configured to communicate with the server and the moving body, the program comprising: 5

a step of acquiring weather information including information concerning weather at the delivery destination; and

a step of making a judgment whether delivery of the package to the delivery destination by the moving body is possible, based on the weather information; and 10

on a basis of the judgment that it is possible to deliver the package to the vehicle, a step of moving the moving body to the vehicle if a main power source of the vehicle is ON or a shift lever of the vehicle is not in a parking range and if the vehicle is present at a distance less than a distance threshold value from the moving body, the distance being obtained from the vehicle position information indicating a current position of the vehicle and moving body position information indicating a current position of the moving body. 20

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